



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC GRANTS SPECTRA REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION IN SOME OF ITS EXCHANGES

JEFFERSON CITY--The Missouri Public Service Commission has granted a Spectra Communications Group, L.L.C. d/b/a CenturyTel (Spectra) request for competitive classification in some of its exchanges under a new state law (SB 237) which took effect on August 28, 2005.

The Commission granted competitive classification for residential services in the Ewing, LaBelle, Lewistown, Macon and Savannah exchanges. The PSC granted competitive classification for business services in the Ewing, LaBelle, Lewistown and Macon exchanges. Spectra has 107 exchanges in Missouri.

On September 23, 2005, Spectra, the PSC Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel filed a joint recommendation urging the Commission to grant Spectra's application on the grounds that the evidence available shows that the statutory standard has been met. The Commission held a hearing on September 28, 2005, to receive additional information in this case.

Under competitive classification, Spectra will no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC. Spectra will be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC will retain its ability to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues.

In this case, state law requires the Commission to issue its decision within 30 days of Spectra's September 9, 2005, filing. Under SB 237, the 30-day criteria for determining competitive classification is based upon the existence of two other entities providing basic local telecommunications service, one of which may be a wireless provider, the other a wireline company providing local voice service using facilities in which it has a partial or full ownership interest.